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Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/083,468

Examiner

Daniel A. Hess

Applicant(s)

UCHIYAMA

Art Unit

2876

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 7/16/07 amendment and arguments.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-10.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

DETAILED ACTION

This action is responsive to Applicant's amendment and arguments of 7/16/2007, which have been entered into the electronic file of record.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-10 allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Notably, claims 3 and 4 were already indicated allowable and have been restated in independent form including all of the limitations of the claim up which those claims depended. As such, those claims are now allowable.

Independent claims 1 and 9, upon which all other claims depend, have been amended to overcome the art of Watanabe (US 4,585,928), which had previously been applied. The Applicant's arguments with respect to these recent amendments are convincing.

In particular, the second newly modified limitation (at clause 9 of claim 1), "a conveyance section for conveying at least a portion of said cash housed in said first housing portion to said second housing portion only upon receipt of a predetermined conveyance instruction" is not met by Watanabe. One important difference is that as now claimed, there is a system that transfers bills to a section where bills are not withdrawable from a section where bills are withdrawable, at the time that a predetermined conveyance instruction comes in ('upon receipt of'). This is rather different from Watanabe, wherein the apparatus sorts bills according to whether they should circulate again or be rejected. This sorting is not based on a conveyance

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instruction, but based on the apparatus' own internal determination that a bill should be taken out of circulation. It is also possible (column 14, lines 49-50) to collect all deposited notes in a non-circulate area, but these notes are not from a section where bills are withdrawable, as is claimed. The fact that the word 'upon' is used requires timely conveyance in response to an instruction. The instruction cannot be merely be a sorting rule to be followed at some unknown time in the future, whenever a condition is met.

Elsewhere, the prior art fails to teach or render obvious the claims as presently recited. It is noted that the limitations taken together are considered, and the discussion above should not be taken to mean that any particular limitations can be taken without the others.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Force et al. (US 6,109,522) gives an example of an automated transaction machine that recirculates currency but fails to teach or render obvious the claimed limitations.

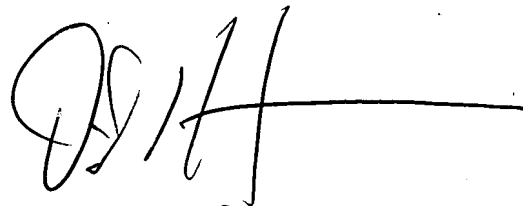
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Daniel A. Hess whose telephone number is (571) 272-2392. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM M-F.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael G. Lee can be reached on (571) 272-2398. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

10/1/07

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Hess', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

DANIEL HESS
PRIMARY PATENT EXAMINER